

Voice of the ^{1st Quarter 2011, Issue #7} DRAGON



The official quarterly newsletter for Soldiers, civilians and families of 36th Signal Battalion serving in the Republic of Korea



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston promotes Pfc. Lawrence A. Smith (293 Sig Co)



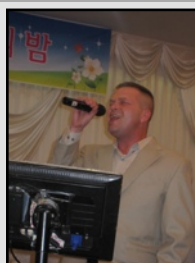
36th Signal Battalion hosts a Holiday Gift-Giving event for the Sungrimwon Orphanage

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SOLDIERS COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT LOCAL ORPHANAGE.

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KOREAN ELECTRONICS AND COMMUNICATION TECHNICIAN ASSOCIATION BRINGS MILITARY AND KOREAN NATIONALS TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE END OF YEAR.

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36TH SIGNAL BATTALION CONDUCTS ANNUAL PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST WITH MS. FELICIA REYNOLDS TAKING FIRST PRIZE.

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1ST QUARTER 2011



Cake cutting ceremony at the Battalion Dining In. Page 5

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VOICE OF THE DRAGON

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DRAGON'S CORNER



Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein, 36th Signal Battalion, Battalion Commander
Camp Walker, Daegu



Mark Rosenstein
Lt. Col., Signal Corps
Commanding

Happy Holidays! The first quarter closed 2010 with exceptional performance and tremendous achievement. The esprit de corps and teamwork I observed during operational missions, Good Neighbor events and unit social functions makes me proud of each and every member of our team (civilians, Soldiers and family members alike). As I mentioned in the last newsletter, our battalion is fueled by an endless stream of initiative and enthusiasm that enables pre-eminent communications to customers across the entire peninsula, while simul-

taneously strengthening the Korean-American alliance. The highlights of the 1st quarter of the year are the truest testament to your selfless dedication -- Outstanding teamwork from our NEO Wardens in support of Focused Passage 10; Superior performance during Dragon Shield IV and Dragon Flight II; First-rate execution of the SCRA Membership "Right Arm" night by 14th Sig Det and Mr Coleman; Superior results from the Brigade Command Inspection (numerous commendable ratings), our Eighth Army COMSEC inspections (Kudos to 14th Sig Det and the S-3 Vault) and the DISA Performance Evaluation of the 293rd Sig Co Chinhae DCS Facility (no deficiencies noted); Exceptional performance from our 25Ps during "Soaring Dragon" I, II and III as well as from our 25Bs during "Enlightened Dragon" III and IV; Enhanced safety awareness from Red Cross CPR training; and an improved historical understanding of Radio Relay Site operations during 1954-55 from our High Point staff walk with USAF MAJ (Ret) Bob Furrer. Another exceptional event was our visit to the ROK Army Signal Center which gave our NCOs and Officers an opportunity to experience how the Korean Army trains signal Soldiers as well as providing an opportunity to strengthen our "Signal" alliance.



Maj. Gen. Myung No Lee

Collectively, the battalion continues to support our brigade priorities: 1) Maintain communications, 2) Develop Leaders, 3) Care for Soldiers and Families and 4) Forge Partnerships. Team work is our mantra!

During this quarter, we celebrated our most cherished holidays, spent time with the children from the Sungrimwon orphanage and closed the year with the arrival of 2011.

Our second annual Halloween pumpkin carving competition had several incredible entries that made the event even better than last year. I also

want to say thanks to all battalion leaders who supported their communities during the Thanksgiving Day lunch events as well as unit holiday events that enhanced the festive atmosphere; thanks to everyone who helped make these activities meaningful and worthwhile. I want to give a special thanks to 2nd Lt. Rainville for executing a wonderful battalion social dinner with an incredible holiday ambiance and exciting "White Dragon" gift exchange.

Winter is upon us. During the next quarter, we must apply composite risk management to prevent cold weather injuries such as hypothermia, frostbite, trench foot and yes, dehydration. For more information, please take time to read the Battalion Winter Safety Campaign which touches on the effects and signs of cold weather injuries, winter driving and proper winter clothing/equipment. We all must remain alert to ensure the safety of our team.

The coming quarter brings several key training events: January brings Soaring Dragon IV; February brings Komodo Shield III and Enlightened Dragon V; and March closes with Key Resolve 2011. During the quarter I look forward to visiting units and getting to know each of you a little better.

At this time I would like to take a moment to welcome all new personnel and families. You join a remarkable command and are part of a dedicated team. We value the knowledge and experience you bring to the 36th Signal Battalion. As you acclimatize to life in the "Land of the Morning Calm" I encourage you to take time to get settled and learn your way around your new environment. Please complete all in-processing steps to ensure the best quality of work and personal life. Please ensure you complete the sponsorship survey at <http://www.usfk.mil/usfk/roadcondition.aspx>

and take time to learn about your Community Services as well as local customs and courtesies. Please do not hesitate to ask any of us for help -- One Team!

To close, I simply want to reiterate how proud I am to serve you as Commander of such an outstanding organization. I ask each of you to always think and act SAFELY; travel with your "Fire Team;" be an alert "Pedestrian;" watch yourselves around alcohol, drugs and other harmful influences; treat family, friends and others with Dignity and Respect; and for Leaders to ensure end-of-week, "Under the Oak Tree," counseling is conducted. Who we are as individuals, and as an organization, is up to us -- "If we can dream it, we can achieve it!" -- Lets continue to reach for our highest potential and make our assignment in Korea an experience of a lifetime. Please enjoy this quarter's "Voice of the Dragon" newsletter.



A child from the Sungrimwon Orphanage spends time with Santa

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."

Peter Drucker

"Dragon 6"





BN COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S MINUTE

Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, 36th Signal Battalion,
Camp Walker, Daegu



Harry Mercado
Command Sergeant
Major, US Army

Greetings to all Standard Bearers! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Wow, 2010 is behind us. Where did the year go? Happy New Years! I want to thank everyone for your kindness to the many orphanages and for your meaningful good neighbor program activities and participation, not only during the holidays, but throughout the year. The first quarter of FY11 brought several training exercises that continued to demonstrate your "Standard Bearer" mindset. Realistic training is not easy, although you continue to lead from the front while executing tough and realistic training that improves

our ability to "Fight Tonight" and win. I ask that for all training, you continue to use composite risk management to ensure safe and effective training. I also want to thank each of you for taking care of each other throughout the holidays. Now that the holidays are behind us, we must prepare for our second quarter primary training events -- Soaring Dragon, Komodo Shield and Key Resolve. I have the utmost confidence in all of you to keep "Communications" open for all War Fighters on the Peninsula.

Visiting the Republic of Korea (ROK) Army Headquarters in Gaeryongdae this past quarter was very rewarding. The history within the Hall of Honor is an experience that will not be forgotten. Additionally visiting the ROK Signal School in Daejeon was equally rewarding. Visiting the Signal School provided a good perspective on our allied partners and was perhaps one of our most memorable professional development events. I challenge all of you to continue to visit historic and traditional locations in Korea as they will enrich your tour in the "Land of the Morning Calm."



**Cmd Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado with
Cmd Sgt. Maj. Jin Song Hong**

Dragons, as I always say, take care of each other. The cold weather is here! I challenge everyone to watch for signs of cold weather injuries and dehydration. This goes for all members of the Dragon Team -- Soldiers, civilians and family members alike. Everyone now has had safety training and under-

stands the standards we live by. I challenge each of you to enforce those standards.

As we bid farewell to personnel in the past quarter and welcome new personnel in the coming quarter, think of the legacy that they leave and the legacies that will be established. During the coming quarter we will continue to honor these personnel by saying our goodbyes (farewells) and by welcoming (hails) our new Soldiers, leaders, civilians and family members.



**Cmd Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado taking a pie in the
face to earn money for HHD FRG**

In closing I want to reiterate how proud I am of our organization. I am proud and blessed to be the Command Sergeant Major for so many truly professional Soldiers, civilians and family members. I wish everyone happiness in the coming year.



**Soldiers of the 36th Signal Battalion with
Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston**

"Dragon 7"



An Evening of Tradition and Entertainment

By Command Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, Command Sgt. Maj., 36th Signal Battalion



On October 22, 2010 the 36th Signal Battalion held a Battalion Dining-In. The history of the military Dining-In is thought to have started in the 16th century, though some records indicate various military organizations held similar events as far back as the Roman Legions. Over 200 Soldiers and civilians from the 36th Signal Battalion came together on Camp Walker to experience the memorable and symbolic event. Attendees enjoyed a nice dinner and other traditional events, such as the "Grog" bowl, that fostered camaraderie, esprit de corps and improved military history.

Following military traditions, the President of the Mess, Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein, and Mr. Vice, 1st Lt. Rory Abbazio, led the event and all its tantalizing activities. The posting of the colors led by the NETCOM NCO of the Year, Staff Sgt. James Becker, as well as the invocation by Mr. Tyrome Myatt and official toasts, the last being to fallen comrades, added poignant sentiment to the event.

The much anticipated "Grog Bowl" ceremony was just the beginning of the many dramatic events that made the event a memorable occasion for all in attendance. The grog bowls, non-alcoholic and alcoholic, were actual toilet bowls (new and unused). Soldiers looked on, with much anticipation, as the secret ingredients were slowly added and mixed together. Once the grog was thoroughly mixed, Mr. Vice was asked to taste the concoction. A faint reply was heard, "Mr President,

HACK-HACK -- COUGH-COUGH, the grog is ready."

As part of the event, the Mess was honored with Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne A. LaClair, United States Army Garrison - Casey as guest speaker. Command Sgt. Maj. LaClair inspired the audience with his experience and wisdom.

There were many entertaining events during the evening, but one really stood out: Capt. Brock Peters, 169th Signal Company, riding the tiniest bicycle ever. All units provided fun entertainment to cap off the evening. Soldiers young and old looked outstanding in their formal dress to help keep a sacred military tradition going.

Special thanks go out to retired and other civilian team members who joined to make the 2010 Dining-In a memorable event for all.



PUMPKIN



Felicia Reynolds



Sarah Rosenstein



Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein



Cristian Ji



Mr. Sean Rainville



Mrs. Chong Rosenstein



2nd Lt. Sarah C. Rainville



Capt. Rene Rodriguez



Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein



Tia Rosenstein





Jared Mosby
Capt., Signal Corps
Commander

accomplish our mission during all operations.

This is truly a unit on the move! I am proud of everyone's participation in the various weapons qualification ranges this quarter. Our fighters outperformed the unit's previous statistics and raised our overall average. Well done!

I am also proud of all the hard work you put into preparing for the Brigade CIP inspection. Our Battalion's high ratings are a direct reflection of the pride you display in your work. By carefully ensuring that every-

Greetings Team Lightning! I am extremely proud of all the hard work and dedication you all have displayed this quarter. Our teamwork has enabled us to successfully

thing we do is to standard, each of you has made our unit successful.

Physical fitness has become our hallmark. Thanks to your tireless efforts, our PT average is much higher than it has ever been. Kudos as well to our APFT badge winners: Pv2. Cyr, Spc. Coronado, Sgt. McGuire, Staff Sgt. Becker, 2nd Lt. Rainville, and Maj. Ji.

Also special thanks to Mr. Seung Ha Lee for taking the time to teach all of us Taekwondo in the mornings. His lessons are greatly appreciated by everyone.

I would also like to thank Mrs. Patrick, Mrs. Stewart, and the other members of our FRG team for all of their support. HHD's FRG hosted an outstanding Halloween Party and Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser. Thanks to everyone's cooperation, we were able to raise a significant amount of money for our unit.

We were also able to enjoy bowling with the children from the Sung Lim Orphanage. You all built great relationships with the children and are great ambassadors for our nation. Thank you for participating in our Formula One Racing event. To the Soldiers and their families who witnessed the inaugural Korean Grand Prix, it was truly an experience we will never forget. Special Congratulations to our new parents! Capt. Rene and Mrs.



HHD and families celebrating Halloween

Rodriguez who recently gave birth to a son, Baron Alexander Rodriguez. Congratulations to Sgt. Teddy Simmons for re-enlisting. Thank you for your decision to continue to serve your country.

This quarter, we said goodbye to some outstanding Soldiers: Master Sgt. Johnson and Sgt. 1st Class Hayes will be missed by everyone. We could not have accomplished our mission without their help. We also would like to welcome Sgt. 1st Class Wyatt to the team.

With the winter season here, please take time to review the Battalion Winter Safety Campaign. It is important that we all take care of each other during these colder months.

I also would like to wish you and your families a Happy New Year. Thanks for your outstanding service to the company and the community.

LIGHTNING 6

"Tis the Season for Giving"

By Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein, Commander, 36th Signal Battalion

On December 20, 2010, the 36th Signal Battalion hosted a holiday gift-giving event for the children of Sungrimwon Orphanage located in Daegu, Korea. The battalion has shared a close relationship with the orphanage for more than 40 years. Soldiers, Families and civilians from HHD, 36th Signal Battalion; 14th Signal Detachment; and 169th Signal Company prepared food items and donated gifts to provide the children with a holiday setting and festive ambiance. In return, the children sang holiday carols, danced for the Soldiers and even put on a Taekwondo performance. Santa Claus made a rare appearance and personally delivered gifts to more than 39 children in attendance. Spc. Rivera from 169th Signal Company commented, "It's nice to bring holiday cheer to so many wonderful children."



Spc. Cynthia Thurlow from HHD and Santa Claus provide a gift to a child from Sungrimwon Orphanage



December 6, 2010 - Mr. Paul Clark, Chief, Area IV, Network Enterprise Center and Ms. Wanda Rosa, Chief Information Technology Training, 169th Signal Company receive 2010 USFK Civilian of the Year "runner-up" gifts from Mr. Ronald Coleman, Chief, Regional Network Enterprise Operations and Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein, 36th Signal Battalion.

Making Time for Children

By Capt. Jared L. Mosby, Commander, HHD

On November 17, 2010, twenty Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment enjoyed bowling with children from the Sung Lim Orphanage in Daegu. During the event the Soldiers had a great time teaching the children how to bowl at Camp Walker's Bowling Alley.



Pfc. Ryan Cyr from HHD teaches children how to bowl

The Sung Lim orphanage has been operational in Daegu since 1952 and is funded by both American and Korean donations to the Christian Children's Fund (CCF). Fourteen children and two caretakers from the orphanage participated in the activity. Spc. Bobby Mitchell, 36th Signal Battalion Chaplain's Assistant said, "This is the first time these children have ever done something like this." Pfc. Ryan Cyr said, "I'm really glad to share this special day with these children." Following the event, the Sung Lim Orphanage director thanked the Soldiers for the opportunity.

The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment have a special bond with the children and look forward to the next time they can spend time together.



Sum Lim Orphanage children together with HHD Soldiers

Formula One Race Day

By Capt. Jared L. Mosby, Commander, HHD

On October 24, 2010, 33 Soldiers and Family members of the 36th Signal Battalion watched the inaugural Korean Grand Prix. Throughout the day, Soldiers experienced the excitement of the Korean International Circuit in the city of Jeollanam-do.

Formula One (F1) racing competitions take place in multiple venues throughout the world. They are the highest class of "single seater" racing sanctioned by the Federation International de' Automobile (FIA) and boast to be the most exciting. An average season consists of several races called Grand Prix (big prize) that are conducted on carefully constructed tracks called circuits. At the end of the year, both the best driver and car manufacturer are declared the winners.

While several competitions have taken place in countries such as Italy, Great Britain, Germany, Spain Australia, Japan and China, this year was the first time the event took place in Korea. Spc. Alfonsocrisda Mojica said, "When I was stationed in Germany, I wanted to go to a F1 race. I never imagined I would see a race in Korea." Korea's new race track exceeded the world's expectations. It offers a spectacular view of the city of Jeollanam-do and accommodates a record 130,000 spectators. With a total length of 5.621km (3.49 miles) and its harrowing twists and turns, the course challenged the most experienced F1 drivers.

Soldiers and family members witnessed every thrilling moment of the 120 minute race. "This makes NASCAR look like a kids game," said Staff Sgt. Thomas Kepler. There were moments of swift defeat such as when Vitaly Petrov had an accident and crashed his car against barriers. Spectators saw "first-hand" the damage and the driver's dismay. There were also moments of great victory, like when Ferdano Alonso's Ferrari jetted down the fairway at speeds up to 360km/hr (220 mph) to claim the win. Sgt 1st Class Mark Hayes said, "This was a great thing to come to. I could not take my eyes off the track!" All of the 36th Signal Battalion's Soldiers and Family members appreciated the experience. "This is something I will always remember," said Pfc. Travis Humble.



36th SIG BN Soldiers watch the F1 race

Refreshing the Spirit

By Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein, Commander, 36th Signal Battalion



Members and affiliates of 36th Signal Battalion attend the 2010 People-to-People International Fall Tour on October 23, 2010

Members and affiliates of 36th Signal Battalion participated in the 2010 People-to-People (PtP) International Fall Cultural Tour sponsored by the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) on October 23, 2010. The PtP organization supports the Combined Forces Command (CFC)/US Forces Korea (USFK) Good Neighbor Program (GNP) that brings together members of CFC/USFK with local Korean people, businesses and non-military governmental offices to enhance cultural relations. The annual event sponsored by the PtP organization and led by its President, Mr. Kim, Byong Chan, provided participants with an opportunity to try a traditional Ginseng Bi Bim Bop lunch; pick apples from a local orchard in the city of Young Chon; enjoy a traditional Korean drum show; and have a cultural dinner with an awards presentation later in the evening. Mr Shawn Rainville had a great time saying, "An event like this with the drum show and dinner would easily cost more than \$100.00 per person in the United States, this was an awesome event!"



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TITAN'S CORNER

14th Signal Detachment, Camp Walker, Daegu, Korea



Brittianè Staton
Capt., Signal Corps
Commander

mission--To provide COMSEC management/maintenance support for the Korean Peninsula.

The "Save A Life Tour" allowed Soldiers to interact with instructors who provided very useful materials on the consequences of drunk driving. This tour also allowed some Soldiers to utilize the multi-million dollar drinking and driving simulator that gave a realistic, sober, perspective on the effects of driving while intoxicated. This training was very beneficial to all Soldiers!

Congratulations to Chief Warrant Officer Christopher Miracle, Sgt. 1st Class Kirk Rhoden, Sgt. Nathaniel Tyson, and Soldiers of our COMSEC Management section for an outstanding job during the Eighth Army COMSEC inspection! We received a satisfactory rating which is the highest rating given to any unit for inspections. Great job team!

Congratulations to Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wells, Pfc. Brian Rivera and Pfc. Robert Dutcher for competing in the Camp Humphreys Combative Tournament.

Our team should feel proud to have had Pfc. Guy Frage (14th South HQs section) and Cpl. Matthew Moore (14th North Maint. section) competing in the 1st Signal Brigade Soldier and NCO of the Year Board. This is the first time that the 14th Signal Detachment had any Soldiers participate in this board.

Greetings Titan Family! It's always an honor to inform everyone how proud I am of the 14th Signal Detachment and our accomplishments. Th is quarter we focused on supporting the "Save A Life Tour," Eighth U.S. Army Communication Security (COMSEC) inspection, 1st Signal Brigade Soldier and NCO of the Year Boards, Signal Corp Regimental Association (SCRA) Membership Drive and the Titan Cultural Tour. Still, with all of these events occurring, our Soldiers and leaders remain focused on the unit's

This quarter, we supported the Area IV SCRA membership drive "Right Arm" night at the Hilltop Restaurant. This brought awareness of the Signal Regiment and brought other Signaleers, non-signal Soldiers and civilians together for a night filled with signal trivia, door prizes and food. This event was very successful with special thanks to 1st Sgt. Denise Shelton and Mr.

Ronald Coleman who presided over the event.

Special thanks go to our FRG Leaders Mrs. Kaylie Melendez, assistant Spc. Zarah Uncangco and Mrs. Lexie Miracle for making our Thanksgiving Dinner a great success! Your support for our Soldiers during this holiday



The Titan Family enjoys the Holidays together

season shows your dedication to the Family Readiness program. Thank You!

To end this quarter we conducted our Titan Cultural Tour to the National Folk Museum located in Gyeongbok Palace, Seoul, Korea. There we had an opportunity to see traditional Korean architecture; view different periods of Korean history (from pre-history through the Japanese occupation), and see replicas and paintings showing various aspects of traditional Korean life (including many ceremonies and festivals). Th is cultural tour helped our Soldiers better understand our Korean partners and strengthen the bond between the U.S. and Korean alliance.

14th Signal Detachment may be small in numbers but our mission still remains the same: to support the entire Korean Peninsula with COMSEC management/maintenance support. Th is is a non-stop/no-fail mission. "Thank You" to our families for supporting their Soldiers both in Korea and back in the States. All the love and support you give makes our day-to-day mission enjoyable and less stressful.

TITAN 6

Tax Information

Unit Tax Officer: 2nd Lt. Sarah Rainville, Battalion Adjutant, PH: 764-5761, sarah.c.rainville@korea.army.mil

Free Tax Assistance Locations: Camp Henry - Bldg. 1685 Rm. 123 PH: 768-8590
Camp Carroll - Bldg. T 125 PH: 765-8179

Dates: Open beginning 1 Feb

*First two weeks (1-14 Feb 11) will focus on E-1 through E-4 walks in. E5 and Higher appointments suggested.

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 1000-1900 Sat 1000-1500

Required Documents: Military ID, S.S. Card, Bank Info i.e. Routing Number, Any Tax Documents i.e. W-2, 1099-1098, Student Loan, Property Info., Dependents S.S. Cards, 2 Yrs. Prior Tax Returns

Self Help Resources: militaryonesource.com, Armed Forces Tax Guide

Filing Overseas: <http://www.irs.gov/businesses/small/international/article/0,,id=97324,00.html>

Previously Filed Returns: <http://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc156.html>

**Not Able to Service KN or Contractors*



Signal Corps Regimental Association

By Capt. Brittiane Staton, Commander, 14th Signal Detachment

Soldiers and Civilians from the 36th Signal Battalion and the Area IV community came out to support the Signal Corps Regimental Association (SCRA) membership drive and “Right Arm” night on November 5, 2010 at the Camp Walker Hilltop restaurant. The night was filled with excitement and light refreshments for all in attendance.

The Area IV SCRA membership drive was coordinated to provide an opportunity for all active, reserve and National Guard service members, as well as civilian members and former members of the Signal Corps, to come together and foster esprit de corps, tradition and “Signal” unity. Signal Soldiers and civilians throughout Area IV attended, to include the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command G6, Maj. Martin Verboom, and others from various tenant organizations and U.S. Army Garrison – Daegu.

The entertainment continued throughout the event with a Signal Corps trivia competition that “pulled” people from the audience to answer fun questions. The contestants received prizes for their courage and knowledge of the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

The event coordinators processed 39 new membership applications during the event which hadn’t been held in Area IV in several years. Mr. Ronald M. Coleman, Vice President, SCRA (Southern Region) welcomed all new members, which included 15 active duty Soldiers, 20 department of the Army civilians, one U.S. Army reserve officer and three Korean National employees.

Mr. Coleman highlighted SCRA goals and expressed his sincere appreciation to all who were in attendance and declared the SCRA

membership drive and “Right Arm” night a success. He promised to repeat the event next year with hopes of surpassing this year’s new member applications.

Mr. Coleman thanked those who worked behind the scenes to make this event happen, with special thanks to Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein as well as Capt. Brittiane Staton and 1st Sgt. (Sgt. 1st Class) Denise Shelton for their support.

Mr. Coleman stated, “The Signal Corps Regimental Association looks forward to supporting the Area IV community throughout this fiscal year through volunteerism and fund raising.”

Anyone interested in becoming an SCRA member can contact Mr. Ronald Coleman 315-764-5782 (DSN), 010-8710-3292 (Mobile) or ronald.coleman@us.army.mil.



1st Sgt. Denise Shelton and Mr. Ronald Coleman process new member applications during the 5 Nov 2010 SCRA Membership Drive held at Camp Walker

Korean Electronics and Communication Technician Association (KECTA) hosts end-of-2010 bash!

By Lt. Col. Mark Rosenstein, Commander, 36th Signal Battalion

On Friday, December 3, 2010 the 36th Signal Battalion, Korean Electronics and Communication Technician Association (KECTA) hosted an “End-of-2010” bash at the Daegu Palace Hotel. The association, which is comprised of current and retired Korean National employees has served the battalion since 1971. The association provides technical support to its members and has helped shape the careers of many employees. The most senior attendee of the night was Mr. Son Hyon who served as a communication technician and retired in 1977. Members of the battalion staff as well

as the battalion’s various signal companies were invited to share in the festivities. The evening provided all attendees with a meaningful event in which young and old came together to share in past memories and plan future endeavors. The evening ended with Noraebang (Korean Karaoke), where leaders of KECTA and the Battalion demonstrated their singing talents.



Mr. Ronald Coleman shows off his musical talents

For more information on the Korean Electronics and Communication Technician Association (KECTA) contact Mr. Kim, Yong Pae at DSN 766-4100/5125.



Members and families of the KECTA along with leaders and staff from the Battalion



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TORCH'S CORNER

169th Signal Company, Camp Walker, Daegu, Korea



Brock Peters
Capt., Signal Corps
Commander

ance in supporting the Defense Communications System (DCS) mission is recognized throughout the Battalion. Everyone looks forward to working with you in upholding the excellence in communications that 169th executes every day.

While the holiday season is a time of joy and camaraderie for many of us, we cannot neglect to remember that depression can strike anyone during this busy season. I would like to remind everyone that many resources are available to help assist us in times of need such as the Chaplain or counselors at the Army Community Services (ACS) center. Everyone's well being is important and each of us must look out for each other as a team. Stay vigilant and stay safe!

Staying ever vigilant with our tactical training, 1st Sgt. Ray Nauta led the way in sharpening our Soldiers combat skills at the new Camp Carroll Paintball Center. Our Soldiers engaged each other as separate teams testing their individual and squad tactical movement techniques. Firing paintballs at one another added a new dimension of realism requiring Soldiers to quickly assess the terrain and use cover and concealment. Once safely behind cover, the Soldiers practiced using suppressive fire and maneuvering to defeat the opposing team.

This training paid dividends during this quarter's "Dragon Shield" exercise, which is a collective Defense Communications System (DCS) site tactical exercise, by honing our Soldier's proficiency in Army Warrior Tasks and battle drills through a real-world scenario.

While training with paintballs was an exciting team-building event, the Camp Walker Halloween Haunted House competition, hosted by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (BOSS), provided another opportunity for our Soldiers to come together as a team. Everyone worked hard at this event and put in the extra effort to make this a thrilling experience for local families. Your outstanding efforts resulted in the company earning \$150 on Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) funds – fantastic teamwork!



A Ghoulish Scene at the Haunted House!

I want to take a moment to offer a heartfelt farewell to all the departing members of our team: Mr. Adam Kile, 1st Lt. Rory Abbazio, Staff Sgt. Mark Thomas, Sgt. Terrell Reider, Cpl. Mark Cains, Cpl. Charles Wiggs, Cpl. Luis Flores, Spc. Johnny Stacey, Spc. Wallace Love, Pfc. Raymond Smalls, Pfc. Ernest Williams, Pfc. Jade Taylor, Pfc. James McGuire, and Pfc. Brittany Stewart. Thank you for all your hard work in improving 169! I wish you well at your next assignment.

In conclusion, I want everyone to know that I truly appreciate your continual professionalism and hard work. Your positive attitudes and exceptional dedication have had a positive, lasting impact on the company. Keep your head held high as we move into the next quarter with another opportunity to excel during Key Resolve '11, which will challenge and sharpen our skills.

TORCH 6

Team Yongsan Takes the Championship

By Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wells, Combatives Trainer, 14th Signal Detachment



On December 10, 2010, 127 Soldiers and KA TUSAs from across the peninsula competed in the 2nd annual Modern Army Combatives Tournament hosted by the 602nd Aviation Support Battalion. The tournament followed standard combatives rules and was broken down into seven weight classes. Soldiers were not separated by gender. Team Yongsan won the Team Championship trophy for the 3rd year in a row.

The team consisted of 12 Soldiers from 501st Signal Company, 14th Signal Detachment, Special Troops Battalion - Korea, 94th MP Company and 142nd MP Company. Sgt. 1st Class James Miller, 142nd MPs, placed first as a light heavyweight; Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Wells, 14th Signal Detachment, placed first as a welterweight; Cpl. Sabrina Martinez, STB-K JAG, placed first as a flyweight; Pfc. Michael Rowley, STB-K JAG, placed second as a cruiserweight; and Pfc. David Sorenson, 94th MPs, placed third as a cruiserweight.

Team Yongsan has dominated and won every combatives tournament for the past three years. Sgt. 1st Class Wells has served as the primary trainer and coach over the past two years. His experience as a level 4 tactical combatives instructor coupled with his training as a blue belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu has helped Team Yongsan maintain their high performing status.

Combatives competitions give Soldiers opportunities to test their skills against a trained opponent. Competitions motivate Soldiers to train hard. Winning a team championship demonstrates professional commitment and dedication.



"Standard Bearers"

1st Qtr 2011

Page 10



Creative Tactical Training

By 1st Lt. Joe Barrow, Executive Officer, 169th Signal Company

On October 28, 2010 the Officers, NCOs and Soldiers of the 169th Signal Company, Camp Walker, Daegu, conducted training at the newly established Camp Carroll paintball course. The training was designed to allow Soldiers to utilize Individual Movement Techniques (IMT) in squad-sized elements against an Opposing Force (OPFOR). The paintball course offered many opportunities for Soldiers to employ cover and concealment and move in buddy teams over challenging terrain. Cover consisted of ravines, hollows, reverse slopes, walls, trees and plastic barrels. The objective of each squad was to capture the flag at the center of the course and place it at the headquarters of the OPFOR. The paintball ensemble consisted of personal protective equipment (PPE), full-length pants, blouse, gloves and semi-automatic assault rifle. Each Soldier was outfitted with 200 paintballs and a colored vest denoting their team. Four safeties were stationed around the field to provide first aid and officiate. A shot to the head or torso was considered a kill.

Upon the completion of training, 1st Sgt. Raymond Nauta conducted an after action review to go over the days events. Soldiers pointed out that during the first iterations participants quickly learned the importance of using IMT, taking cover and providing covering fire. Teams that did not utilize these tactics were quickly engaged and defeated. Many Soldiers expressed surprise at just how easy it was to lose communication with team members or be caught “in the open.” During subsequent iterations, teams implemented lessons learned from the opening engagements to provide, “support by fire” designed to assault elements flanking entrenched positions. One key take away from the training was that the most successful teams were the ones that employed “mutually supporting” fire teams that incorporated effective IMT. In addition, a review of sustained “notional” casualties highlighted a high number of head shots suffered by personnel situated downhill by adversaries effectively emplaced uphill. These casualties highlighted the importance of using proper cover and concealment from plunging fire that is anticipated if fighting ever occurs in Korea’s mountainous terrain.



A yellow team member returns fire uphill from behind cover

By the end of the training, Officers, NCOs and Soldiers of 169th Signal Company had a training experience that enabled them to better understand effective individual movement techniques as well as the value of proper cover and concealment and mutually supporting fire.



Spec. Michael D. Clark from 169th Signal Company lays down suppressive fire

Enlightened Dragon: Training Soldiers to Maintain and Defend the Network

By Capt. Brock Peters, Commander, 169th Signal Company

Soldiers and civilians of the 36th Signal Battalion participated in an intensive training program known as, “Enlightened Dragon,” from 18-28 October 2010. Enlightened Dragon continues to provide Signal professionals with the necessary foundation to earn a CompTIA Network+ certification. This international certification substantiates a technician’s competency in managing, maintaining, troubleshooting, installing and configuring basic network infrastructure. Indeed, the CompTIA Network+ certification is an indication of a competent network professional. Earning this certification not only demonstrates our Soldiers and civilians have the right technical skills, but also the dedication and commitment to their Information Technology (IT) profession. Many Soldiers commented on the professionalism of the instructors and the high quality of the information provided.

It is also worth noting that the Department of Defense (DoD) has mandated that all 25B (Information Systems Operator-Analyst) MOS (Military Occupation Specialty) Soldiers and respective Department of the Army civilians must achieve a CompTIA certification to be qualified in their profession by December 31, 2010. The DoD clearly understands the importance of validating technician skill and competence. The result of certification is a more efficient and effective workforce that understands information assurance and the vital importance of properly managing and safeguarding DoD cyber networks and resources.

The training provided through Enlightened Dragon has successfully qualified many IT professionals to meet DoD requirements and provide improved customer service. With outstanding instructors and dedicated students, the 36th Signal Battalion will continue to set the standard for IT excellence in training and certification.



Pfc. Roberto Leal from 169th Signal Company prepares to take the Network+ examination at the Pearson Vue test center located at the Area IV Network Enterprise Center (NEC) located on Camp Henry, Daegu



36TH SIGNAL BATTALION

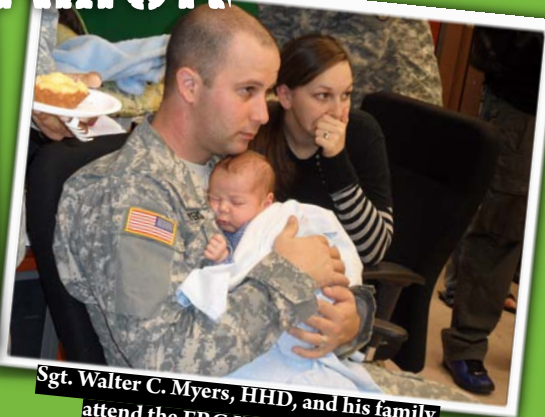
in Action



Pfc. Pierre R. Campbell, HHD, shares some Halloween candy with the kids at the Halloween FRG event



Command Teams serve Thanksgiving lunch at the Dining Facility



Sgt. Walter C. Myers, HHD, and his family attend the FRG Halloween event



Maj. Mikel Hugo, Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein, and Maj. Haeyong Ji at the Dining In



Soldiers and Civilians enjoying the Holiday Spiritual Fitness luncheon



Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein takes a pie for charity from Maj. Haeyong Ji



36th Signal Battalion enjoys spending time with Lt. Gen. John D. Johnson and his wife at the Brigade Holiday Social



Children from the Sungrimwon Orphanage perform for the Battalion



Battalion leadership shows off their Halloween costumes



169th Signal Company leads the Battalion Run before the Thanksgiving Holidays





Spencer Calder
Capt., Signal Corps
Commander

Happy New Year from Team Eagle! With the new calendar year comes news that three of our facilities won the coveted DISA-Korea Facility of the Year for 2010. Special recognition goes to the team at the Jinhae TCF, who had zero deficiencies, and was commended during their Defense Information Systems Agency performance evaluation. As we move into the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2011 we will be preparing for the Company Change of Command and Key Resolve 2011. We will also be making the transition from long haul focus in our mission to a total package including information transport, minor installation, and network operations.

While our mission might have shrunk in 2010, our expectations of performance have risen. Everyone has taken notice of how far we have come, and it is my intent to keep that momentum going. I am proud of all of you and sincerely thank you for your hard work and dedication put forth in maintaining our facilities. Regardless of what comes of the DISA-PAC FOTY competition this year, I am confident we will be recognized. The

question is how many regional categories we will win. Keep doing great things 293rd, but remember; keep it to Army standard and make sure you are taking care of yourself too. I hope you had a great holiday season and enjoyed quality time with your families.

EAGLE 6



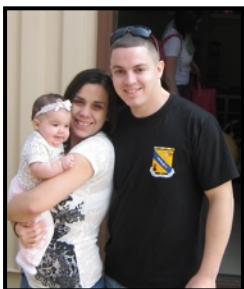
Capt. Brock Peters and Capt. Spencer Calder come together to perform at the Dining In



Leadership serves Thanksgiving lunch at the DFAC

14th Signal Detachment Celebrates its Birthday

By Capt. Brittiane Staton, Commander, 14th Signal Detachment



Spc. Carlos Lugo and family 14th (North)

Soldiers from the 14th Signal Detachment, 36th Signal Battalion celebrated the Detachment's birthday on October 16, 2010 at Camp Walker, Daegu, Korea. Soldiers joined together wearing unit t-shirts and donating various food items to the Detachment to celebrate its eighth birthday on the Korean peninsula.

The 14th Signal Detachment was originally formed as the 14th Signal Radar Maintenance Unit, Type A, on 25 April 1944 at Camp Davis, North Carolina. During World War II, the detachment participated in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. On 12 March 1953, it was re-designated as the 14th Signal Detachment. One of the detachment's most notable accomplishments during the Korean War was its ability to provide theater level communications security logistics support and controlled cryptographic item maintenance support to US Army and Allied forces, other military departments and various other government agencies. The detachment successfully accomplished this mission and provided a critical capability on the peninsula during the Korean War.

On June 25, 1958, after earning the Meritorious Unit Commendation and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, the 14th Signal Detachment was inactivated. Subsequently, the 14th Signal Detachment was activated and inactivated over the following 13 years at Fort Lee, Virginia and Fort Carson, Colorado.

The 14th Signal Detachment was once again reactivated on the Korean peninsula on October 16, 2002. The 14th Signal Detachment has an Operational Control relationship with the Eighth Field Army and an Administrative Control relationship with the 36th Signal Battalion. The detachment was reactivated to support the Eighth Army's mission which includes operations and maintenance of the Theater's only Central Office of Record as well as provisions to train and re-certify cryptographic equipment technicians.



14th Signal Detachment (South)





Anthony Reinhardt
Capt., Signal Corps
Commander

Soldiers, families, and friends of the 501st Signal Company, Happy Holidays to all of you and good luck in the coming New Year. I appreciate the fact that many of you are separated from your loved ones this holiday season and I am grateful for your sacrifice to our country and the Republic of Korea. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season.

October started with an exciting cultural trip to Gyeongbok Palace in Seoul. Sgt. Kim Sei Hoon organized and led the trip for the Soldiers and family members of the 501st as an opportunity for them to experience some of the culture and history Korea has to offer. Soldiers saw the changing of the guard

ceremony at the main gate, the inner palace, and Myung Dong Street where they had the opportunity to try traditional Korean food.

The 501st has seen much change in the last three months. On October 28th the company welcomed its new First Sergeant, 1st Sgt. Michael T. Bost, who took over for Sgt. 1st Class Travis R. McAninch. Sgt. 1st Class McAninch did an outstanding job as the 501st Signal Company First Sergeant and has continued his incredible leadership within the company as the Headquarters Platoon Sergeant. In November Cpl. Noh Hyun Woo took over as the Senior KATUSA for Sgt. Kim Sei Hoon. Sgt. Kim will be leaving the ROK Army on November 15th, we wish him the best of luck in resuming his college studies.

On October 29th the company participated in the USAG Humphreys Spooky Hollow event for Halloween. Soldiers from the 501st helped set up the haunted house and handed out candy to the children attending the

event. It was an incredibly successful event enjoyed by everyone who participated, children and Soldiers alike.

Always looking to strengthen our ties with our allies in the ROK Army, the 501st hosted a sports day with the 51st ROKA Signal Battalion on November 19th. US and ROK Soldiers as well as family members participated in soccer, softball, and football in order to build greater camaraderie with our ROK counterparts. The day ended with the 501st and 51st exchanging gifts.

The 501st will be hosting Family Readiness Group meetings on January 27th, February 24th, and March 31st. In February the 501st will begin preparation for Warrior Storm and Key Resolve 11, a major Peninsula-wide exercise taking place in March.

Thank you for making this a wonderful company to be a part of. I appreciate everything our Soldiers, civilians, and family members are doing every day to make this unit better.



1st Sgt. Michael T. Bost, 501st, receiving a lateral promotion from his twin brother, Sgt. 1st Class Antonio J. Bost

STRYKE 6

Cultural Trip Inspires Soldiers and Improves Host Nation Awareness

By Capt. Brittiane Staton, Commander, 14th Signal Detachment



14th Signal Detachment at Gyeongbok Palace

On December 6, 2010 members of the 14th Signal Detachment conducted a cultural awareness trip to the Gyeongbok Palace in Seoul, Korea. Being in a unit with a 24 hour-a-day, 365 day-a-year mission, it is often difficult to carve out time to get away and appreciate the Korean culture. The Gyeongbok Palace was built in 1394 and reconstructed in 1867. It was the main and largest palace of the Five Grand Palaces built by the Joseon Dynasty. The name of the palace, Gyeongbokgung, translates in English as "Palace of Shining Happiness." The palace was all but destroyed by the Japanese in the early 20th century. The palace served as the main seat of power for Korean royalty throughout much of Korea's traditional history. During their visit, Soldiers were able to witness a reenactment of the "Changing of the Guard" ceremony. Participants were dressed in traditional attire of the time. The trip exposed Soldiers and family members to traditional Korean history

and culture which helped them better appreciate the value Korea brings to our world. The visit provided Soldiers and family members with a "once in a life time" experience and a lasting memory.



Changing of the Guard Ceremony at Gyeongbok Palace



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

19th ESC Command Chaplain, Camp Henry, Daegu, Korea



Jeff Zust
Lt. Col., Chaplain
Area IV

I once heard a Vietnam War Hero describe the motivation behind his actions under fire as, "Where the heck else was I going to go?" In talking with him further he described most of his life in the same way— simply doing what he believed was the right thing to do at that moment.

The Army uses words like "resilience" or "comprehensive Soldier fitness" to describe a very simple concept – the ability to act under stress and go on with life. However, just because it is simple, doesn't mean that it is easy.

Picture a train going across a railroad bridge. That bridge must have the strength to withstand the weight of the locomotive and at the same time have the endurance to give way and bounce back under the pressures placed upon it by the motion of the train. Engineers call this tensile strength. The Army calls it spiritual fitness. I call it faith.

For a Soldier, strength and endurance comes from a variety of sources. I ask you: 1) What energizes you? 2) What provides you direction and guidance? 3) What gives you perspective and purpose? The answers to these personal questions are the beginning of defining your spiritual fitness.

That Vietnam veteran was not a shallow man. He lived a life that few of us will ever have to live, and he did it with a grace and purpose that grew out from the deep roots of his life. He is a fellow Soldier I would want by my side in a war, but even a better neighbor that I wanted as a friend.

This month we begin another year of service in a rapidly changing environment that none of us control. I encourage you to continue to take some moments to intentionally develop your spiritual fitness for the road ahead. It is a matter of using your physical strength, your heart, your social support, and your mind.

Your spiritual fitness is a perishing and renewable resource for your life. Our unit will have many opportunities and events for you to grow in the coming year – make the most of them. I wish you well and blessings upon you and your families in the year to come.

Save a Life Tour

By 1st Sgt. Raymond C. Nauta, 169th Signal Company

On October 7, 2010, Soldiers of the 169th Signal Company participated in the "Save a Life Tour," an advanced high-impact alcohol awareness program that utilizes multi-million dollar drinking and driving simulators. There were numerous videos depicting the disastrous consequences of driving intoxicated. The videos and training simulators effectively gave Soldiers a realistic view on the negative effects of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

For Soldiers with weak stomachs, the scenes of disasters were too graphic. Videos of young adults in their vehicles wrapped around telephone poles and collisions with oncoming motor vehicles were grim reminders of the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol.

In particular, one video showed a person laying 25ft from the vehicle while police officers took pictures and investigators tried to piece together the details. First responders were also at the scene using their training hoping to save the person's life. It really hits home when one realizes that many lives are affected from tragic deaths. The positive aspect of this training was that Soldiers learned how to avoid such unnecessary accidents.

One Soldier was asked what he thought of the training, "This was all too surreal. A friend back home was driving drunk and crashed his car into a tree. I'm just glad he survived with only a scar above his eye and that he didn't hurt anyone else." He added, "Joining the Army after that was the best decision I ever made. I'll be sure to take care of myself in the future and watch out for my buddies." Some may continue to ignore warnings, but if one Soldier takes the training and applies it to his or her own life, then the training was successful.



Pfc. James McGuire, 169th, attempts to drive using the drunk driver simulator

Members of the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command G-6 visit the 36th Signal Battalion, Southern Node along with members of the 501st Sustainment Brigade and other organic organizations as part of the commands signal leadership professional development program on October 28, 2010. The program is designed to provide leaders with an improved awareness of the Theater Information Grid and its operations.





KOREAN CULTURE

Prepared by ROKA Staff, 36th Signal Battalion, Daegu, Korea



Nam, In Su
ROKA
Sergeant Major

안녕하세요. I am very appreciative of the 36th Signal Battalion Commander, Command Sergeant Major, civilians and Soldiers who have given warm greetings and continue to assist me. This

is my first time working in USFK. I have adapted quickly because 36th Signal Battalion has made the transition smooth and have been of great assistance to me.

This quarter is "kimjang" season. Between the end of October and the middle of November each year, most Korean households take part in an annual event known as 'kimjang'. During this period, they prepare large amount of kimchi to get them through the 3 or 4 cold months of winter.

Kimchi, which gets its name from the Chinese word 'chimchae' meaning salt-pickled vegetables, is a Korean fermented vegetable, one of many in the Korean tradition of fermented food. The Chinese and Japanese have their own versions of



vegetables soaked in brine, but there is nothing quite like the Korean kimchi. Not only does kimchi aid in the prevention of obesity since it is rich in dietary fiber and very flavorful and yet low in calories, it is also a good source of vitamins and contains lactic acid bacteria, well-known for their health benefits, so kimchi is much loved by both Koreans and foreigners and is widely regarded as the exemplar of South Korea's healthy food.

A long time ago, before Koreans had developed methods such as vinyl greenhouses to defend their crops against the severe winter weather, kimjang was the only means of ensuring a ready supply of vegetables through the winter.

Making such a large amount of kimchi is a lot of work, so neighbors and relatives commonly help each other during kimjang. It is customary to prepare some boiled



pork and fresh kimchi to feed those who come to help with kimjang, and when

all of the work is done, the left-over salted Napa cabbage and other kimchi ingredients are divided up among those who have yet to do kimjang. Kimjang has always been an indispensable annual time of feasting for the entire community and an opportunity to spend time sharing warm ca-

maraderie with one's neighbors.

Times have changed, and with the advent of kimchi refrigerators, there is no longer a need to make large batches of kimchi, so kimjang is becoming much less common, but it remains a very significant aspect of food culture in Korea.

As kimchi has gained popularity, kimjang is emerging as something exotic that many visitors to Korea are interested in experiencing. In Korea, there are now numerous festivals and events that include opportunities for foreigners to try their hand at kimchi-making.

Please feel free to call me and ask for my help whenever you want to learn about the Korean culture or have questions. I will do my best to assist you.

Thank you again for helping me adapt to this new environment.

감사합니다.



Battalion Recognized with a Combined Forces Command Award

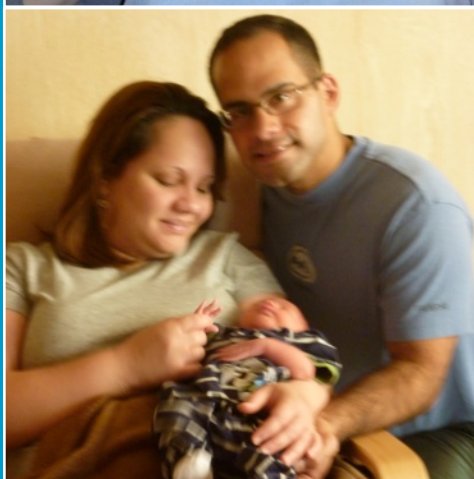
From left to right: Cmd Sgt. Maj. Harry Mercado, Sgt. 1st Class Lee, Sung (former Bn. ROKA Sgt. Maj.), Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein, Lt. Col. Song, Soo Yong, Master Sgt. Jae Ki Min (former Bn. ROKA Sgt. Maj.), and Master Sgt. Nam, In Su (current Bn. ROKA Sgt. Maj.)



Lt. Col. Mark E. Rosenstein is presented the ROK-US Combined Forces Command award by Lt. Col. Song, Soo Yong, Commander of ROKA Support Group, Area IV



*We welcome the newest members
to the Dragon Family.*



Top: Spc. Billy Ray Murphy, HHD, and his wife, Jhenney, welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Christian Paner Murphy.

Middle: Sgt. Walter C. Myers, HHD, and his wife, Spc. Bailey Myers, welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Walter James Myers II.

Bottom: Capt. Rene Rodriguez, HHD, and his wife, Merci, welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Baron Alexander

Area IV Family Action Plan Conference

By Sgt. 1st Class Steven M. Gedemer, Career Counselor, 36th Signal Battalion

On 23 November, Soldiers, family members, and other Department of Defense civilians gathered at the Camp Walker chapel to participate in the 2011 Area IV Army Family Action Plan Conference. The 36th Signal Battalion was represented at the conference by Capt. Jared L. Mosby and 1st Lt. Joseph A. Barrow, who both worked as delegates in their respective groups, as well as Sgt. 1st Class Steven M. Gedemer who worked as the issue support and transcriber in the youth group.

The purpose of the AFAP conference is to help identify and prioritize issues identified by members of the Area IV Community. Once each respective work group prioritized its top two issues, they were critiqued and then out briefed the Garrison Commander and other key leaders in the community. Throughout the day, each group called on subject matter experts from various agencies in the community to assist them in explaining the various policies and regulations as they pertained to the issue being worked.

The importance of the issues presented range from those that can be solved locally to those that are forwarded to the Eighth Army conference scheduled for the spring of 2011.

Some issues that were addressed include: extending commissary operating hours, the feasibility of a 24-hour shoppette in the community as well as overcoming language barriers for off post medical care. The youth group proposed more activities for high school age students and the creation of a Daegu American School "Spirit Shop".

Always remember that whatever idea you have, no matter how small or large, may just be the one that the next AFAP conference decides to prioritize and act on. Every AFAP issue starts with an individual submitting their concern.

One example of a local AFAP initiative that was acted on, was changing the AAFES gas station hours to better accommodate the Area IV community. So when your filling up your car at 1900, remember that was someone's AFAP idea that they took the time to submit.

Army and DoD-wide examples include the change to AR 670-1 that authorizes the wear of the black back pack in uniform and the transferability of GI Bill benefits to dependents.

Submit your AFAP Issue for the next conference today!



Sgt. 1st Class Steven M. Gedemer pictured second from the left with members of the youth group and Col. Kathleen Gavle and Cmd Sgt. Maj. Gabriel S. Arnold during the awards ceremony.



Operation "Soaring Dragon"

By Chief Warrant Officer Rebecca Johnson, Regional Network Operations and Security Center

During the month of October, 36th Signal Battalion executed three iterations of a new technical certification program labeled Operation "Soaring Dragon." The certification concept was developed by Staff Sgt. James Becker, formerly assigned to the 293rd Signal Company as Site Chief of the Camp Walker Technical Control Facility and now serving in the 36th Signal Battalion Network Operations Control Center. Staff Sgt. Becker, the Network Enterprise Technology Command (NETCOM)/9th Army Signal Command (ASC) NCO of the Year developed the program to prepare newly assigned Microwave Systems Operator-Maintainers (MOS 2SP) for duties in Defense Communications System (DCS) facilities across the battalion's area of responsibility (a 38,250 square mile area).

Microwave Systems Installer-Maintainers are primarily responsible for installing, operating and maintaining microwave communications systems. They also work with associated antennas, multiplexing and communications security equipment. Duties include: configuring, aligning, operating and performing unit level and direct support maintenance on microwave communications and technical control facility equipment as well as associated devices such as the Switch Multiplexor Unit (SMU). These Soldiers monitor, isolate and restore telecommunications circuits, trunks and other commercial and military interface equipment. They install, operate, strap and re-strap equipment and perform preventive and unit level maintenance on communication security devices. They also maintain station records and reports.

The purpose of "Soaring Dragon" is to provide Soldiers with foundation and core concepts that ensure operations and maintenance of DCS facilities are in compliance with Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) directives. Most DCS facilities across the

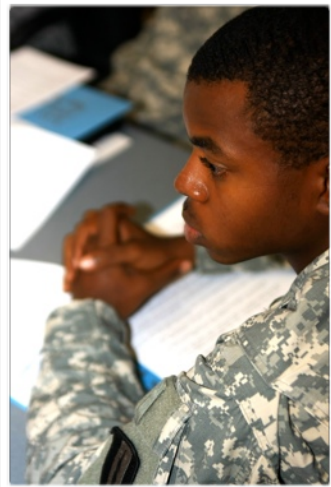
Korean Theater of Operations use legacy equipment and procedures that are no longer trained at the US Army Signal Center as part of the formalized 2SP program of instruction. Soaring Dragon brings together the technical talents of NCOs and Department of the Army civilians from the Battalion C4IS section as well as the 6th Signal Center Facility Control Office. Mr. Richard Locke from C4IS commented, "I was grateful for the opportunity to train Soldiers and help them better understand the battalion's DCS mission and responsibilities." The program

provides training on DISA Circular 310-70-1, basic emergency plan, authorized service interruption procedures, basic patching concepts and signal flow, basic troubleshooting procedures, circuit activations, circuit data cards (DD Form 1441), conducting and scheduling preventative maintenance, daily checks, the facility management hierarchy, DISA circulars and publications, environmental control systems, in and out-of service quality checks, how to interpret a telecommunications service order (TSO), the master

station log, monthly COMSEC changeover Procedures, the Outage and restoration record (DD Form 1443), reporting procedures, restoral plans, shift change procedures, standard operating procedures, the station grounding system, station power sub-systems, trend analysis, SMU and promina overview, REMEDY overview and site chief/NCOIC responsibilities.



Staff Sgt. James Becker provides training on Basic Roles and Responsibilities of Technical Controllers



Pfc. Markkice Johnson, 169th Signal Company, receiving training on Basic Patching Concepts and Signal Flow

36th Signal Battalion has three DCS companies (169th Signal company, 293rd Signal company and 501st Signal company) that support DCS facilities at Camp Humphreys, Camp Carroll, Camp Walker, Camp Henry, Pier 8 (Busan) and the Busan Support Facility (BSF). The battalion supports the Theater Joint Allied Information Environment through its support of DCS facilities/services at Osan Air Base, Suwon Air Base, Kunsan Air Base, K2 Air Base (Daegu), Chinhae Naval Base and Camp Mu Juk (formerly Marine Expeditionary Camp - Pohang).

36th Signal Battalion conducts "Soaring Dragon" once a quarter to enable command and control across the peninsula.



Class 3 - "Soaring Dragon"



A Visit to A Legacy Radio Relay Site

By 2nd Lt. Luis Garay, Operations Officer, 501st Signal Company

On October 14, 2010, officers of the 36th Signal Battalion conducted a staff walk to one of 501st Signal Company's transmission sites supporting the theater Defense Communications System (DCS) infrastructure known as High Point. As part of the staff walk, a guest speaker Maj. (Retired) Robert "Bob" Furrer was invited to share his experience from when he was stationed as the site Officer in Charge (OIC)



Officers of the 36th Signal Battalion and retired Maj. Robert (Bob) Furrer at the High Point radio relay site

during the period 1954-1955.

The officers of the 36th Signal Battalion really put the walk in staff walk with a brisk climb to the top of the mountain where High Point is located. Those participating were winded when they met with Mr. Furrer at the peak, overlooking the beautiful city of Cheonan, which was much different from what Mr. Furrer remembered during his tour. He remarked that, "the only thing that remained of the site he remembered was the stairway that marked the end of the officers' hike." When asked what it was like to return to High Point after 55 years, Mr. Furrer said, "I suppose the feeling and/or result of such a trip is like walking into a casino and dropping a silver dollar in the one-armed bandit that is always there to greet you as you enter, and hitting the jack-pot!"

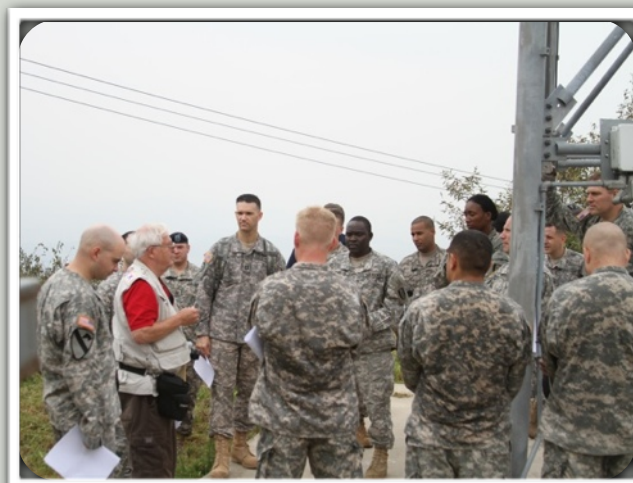
Once all officers arrived at the peak, Mr. Furrer, an amateur historian who recently published a book on his experiences working with the Kuwaiti government called, *"It's No Problem in Kuwait or Tales of the Arabian Knights,"* entertained and enlightened the officers present with detailed stories of life during his time as site OIC which included everything from the rat infested billets they lived in, to their outside the box solutions for fixing sensitive equipment. A few of his experiences shocked some of the officers. Mr. Furrer just chuckled and said, "Things were pretty loose back then."

In the beginning, it seemed as though the lives of the signal Soldiers past and present couldn't be more different. But, after listening to a few of Bob's experiences, it seemed much back then was the same as it is today for deployed Soldiers. Many of

the officers with deployments to Iraq or Afghanistan could relate quite closely to the stories of the living conditions, and when Mr. Furrer talked about logistics problems, the stories were all too familiar. "It's good to see nothing changes," joked Capt. Anthony Reinhardt.

But Army stories weren't the only ones that Mr. Furrer had in store for the leaders of the 36th Signal Battalion. He also told them a little about himself and where he came from. Mr. Furrer talked about his upbringing in a lumbering community in Oregon and the journey that took him from being a lumberjack to and Army ROTC cadet and finally to an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Although he was only on active duty for a short period of time, he told the group that it was his time as the High Point OIC that did the most to shape him as both a military officer, and as a man.

By the end of the professional development event, Mr. Furrer had shown the officers of the 36th Signal Battalion that they can learn from the leaders that have come before them. One of the younger officers present, 1st Lt. Eric Hook expressed, "Getting to hear about the early years of our mission in Korea was really rewarding. I feel connected to the history of this place now. It really puts my job in perspective." Judging by Mr. Furrer's reaction as the day wound down, he felt much of the same connection. Although the officers who participated first seemed so far removed from Mr. Furrer, by the end of the day they were all just a group of Soldiers and one Airman, old and new, enjoying the view from their mountain top radio relay site and sharing a typical military meal with their guest (Meal Ready to Eat).



Bob Furrer provides experiential training to officers of 36th Signal Battalion



UPCOMING: *Highlights*

JAN.

Soaring Dragon IV (4-7 Jan)
Car Maintenance Week (10-14 Jan)
Martin Luther King Poetry Reading (11 Jan)
Battalion FRG Steering Committee Meeting (14 Jan)
Battalion Hail and Farewell (14 Jan)
CBRN Certification (20-21 Jan)
Dragon Week (24-28 Jan)

FEB.

Komodo Shield (1-2 Feb)
Enlightened Dragon V (8-18 Feb)
Common Maintenance Week (14-18 Feb)
Warrior Storm (14-25 Feb)
Strong Bonds Retreat (Married) (18-20 Feb)

MAR.

Key Resolve (28 Feb-11 Mar)
Battalion Run / Hail and Farewell (25 Mar)

FAMILY HOLIDAY: *Planning*

MLK Training Holiday (15-18 Jan)
Dragon Freeze II - BN Ski Trip (17 Jan)
Lunar New Year/Superbowl Training Holiday (4-7 Feb)
President Day Training Holiday (18-21 Feb)
Dragon Freeze III - BN Ski Trip (21 Feb)
ROK Independence Day Training Holiday (1 Mar)
Training Holiday (14 Mar)